

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 12 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found at page 3, lines 22-23 and page 4, lines 4-6.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over ("Nissen et al."), in view of US 5,312,586 ("Stockel") and US 6,190,407 ("Ogle").

Nissen et al. discloses Weflex 55 hydrogel lenses having a silver layer. There is no description of what the silver layer is or how it was applied. The most that one of skill in the art could take away from Nissen, is that the coating contained silver in some form. There is also no disclosure or suggestion that the silver layer was treated with an oxidizing agent.

Stockel discloses a process for disinfecting a contact lens. Lenses containing an antimicrobial agent of any kind are not disclosed.

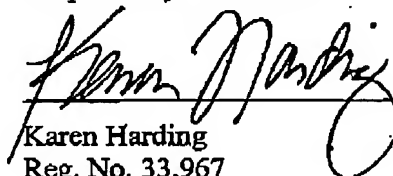
Ogle discloses associating antimicrobial metal with a medical article.

The claims of the present invention recite clear lenses having silver with an average particle size of about 2 to about 8 microns incorporated therein. None of the references disclose the presently recited particle size, or that silver particles could be incorporated into the lens polymer and still form a clear article.

Accordingly, none of the above references taken alone or in combination suggest the clear lenses comprising silver which are recited in the present claims. The cited references also do not disclose or suggest the methods of claims 8 and 12.

The passage to allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (904) 443-3074 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,


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